

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 13, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on January 7, 2004, but has not yet received indication that that IDS has been considered by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with that IDS indicating that the information cited therein has been considered by the Examiner.

Claims 1-16 and 18-25 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18-20 and 22 have been amended. Claim 25 has been added. Support for the claim changes and the added claim can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 12, 14 and 20-24 are in independent form.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-24 have been allowed. The changes made herein to the allowed claims are not believed to affect their patentability.

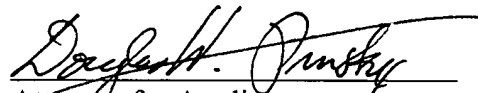
Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate features similar to features recited in allowed Claim 21. In addition, new Claim 25 depends from Claim 21. Accordingly, Claims 6 and 25 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as pertain to

Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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